



**August 21, 2003**

## **U.S. Attorney Curran resigns**

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### **Attorney General Ashcroft to name Interim U.S. Attorney**

Margaret E. Curran announced today that she is resigning from her position as United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island. Her last day will be Friday, August 22. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in early 1999, Ms. Curran is leaving on a disability retirement. Attorney General John Ashcroft will designate an Interim United States Attorney to serve pending President Bush's nomination of Ms. Curran's replacement.

Ms. Curran has been United States Attorney since May 1998, when she was named to the interim position following the resignation of Sheldon Whitehouse. Acting on the recommendation of Senator Jack Reed, President Clinton subsequently nominated her and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed her United States Attorney in October 1998. She was the first woman named to the position in Rhode Island.

After President Bush was elected, Senator Lincoln Chafee recommended to the White House that Ms. Curran continue in office under the new Administration. Accordingly, thanks to Senator Chafee, she has served even longer under the Bush Administration than under the prior Administration.

At the beginning of her legal career, after clerking for First Circuit Court of Appeals Judge the Honorable Bruce M. Selya, then a United States District Court Judge in Rhode Island,

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Ms. Curran clerked for the Honorable Thomas J. Meskill of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She was in private practice, at Wistow & Barylick in Providence, before joining the Rhode Island U.S. Attorney's Office in 1986. The office was then under the direction of the Honorable Lincoln Almond, who hired Ms. Curran as a criminal prosecutor. In 1990, Mr. Almond created an Appellate Section within the office and named Ms. Curran chief of the section. She occupied that post until being named Interim U.S. Attorney in 1998.

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